



## Department of Economics Course Outline

<b>Course:</b>	Economics 301 [Microeconomic Theory I]	<b>Term:</b>	Spring 2011
<b>Section:</b>		<b>Section:</b>	20
<b>Time:</b>	TR 14:00-16:50	<b>Place:</b>	EDC 280 (subject to change)
<b>Instructor:</b>	Victor Yang Song		
<b>Office:</b>	SS 409	<b>Telephone:</b>	403-220-4631
<b>Office Hours:</b>	TR 17:00-17:50 @ SS 409	<b>E-mail:</b>	<a href="mailto:songy@ucalgary.ca">songy@ucalgary.ca</a>

### Textbooks:

**Required:** *Intermediate Microeconomics*, 8<sup>th</sup> Edition, Hal Varian, Norton, 2010.

### Books on Reserve:

None

### Blackboard:

Students registered in this course can log on at <http://blackboard.ucalgary.ca/webapps/login>

Blackboard features a class email list that will be used. Please ensure that Blackboard uses the email address of your choice. The default is your University of Calgary email address.

### Description:

This course is the first of two courses (ECON 357 is the second) designed to cover the basics of microeconomics. We will study the behavior of consumers and firms, and analyze the equilibria occurring when the two groups interact.

You will have seen many of the ideas before in your introductory economics courses. However, the treatment here will be more technical. Calculus is not required for this course and will not be used, but high school level algebra is used extensively. In particular, you must be able to solve a system of two equations and two unknowns.

Microeconomic theory is very important to the study of all economics and you will acquire tools in this course you will use throughout your career in economics. I have a responsibility to you, and to the Department of Economics, to ensure that you understand the basics thoroughly. As a result, it is my expectation that by the end of the course, all students can solve for a consumer's demand function and draw a competitive firm's supply curve. Those who cannot demonstrate these abilities by the end of the course should not expect to pass.

### **Course Outline:**

The course will follow the textbook. However, some materials may be added or removed based on time constraints.

### **Part I: Consumer Behavior**

Chapter 1 – Review and Introductory Material  
 Chapter 2, 3 – Budget and Preferences  
 Chapter 4, 5, 6 – Utility, Choices and Demand  
 Chapter 8, 9 – Income Effect and Buying & Selling  
 Chapter 14 – Consumer Surplus

### **Part II: Firm Behavior**

Chapter 18 – Technology  
 Chapter 19, 20 – Profit Maximization and Cost Minimization  
 Chapter 21 – Cost Curves

### **Part III: Supply and Demand**

Chapter 15, 16, 22 – Firm Supply and Market Demand  
 Chapter 23 – Perfectly Competitive Markets

### **Part IV: Introduction to Market Failures**

- a. Market Power and Monopoly
- b. Role of Government and Econ 357

### **Grade Determination and Final Examination Details:**

Midterm Exam	29%	1.5 hours
Final Exam    Scheduled by the Registrar (June 27-29)	50%	2 hours
Assignments	3 x 7% = 21%	

The aim of the course is to develop your ability to solve problems. As such, the exams will consist mainly of problems. You will not be expected to memorize definitions. However, you will need to demonstrate an understanding of the definitions covered in lecture.

### Assignments

Assignment 1, 2 and 3 will focus on Consumer Behavior, Firm Behavior and Perfectly Competitive Equilibrium, respectively. You will have at least one week to complete each of the three assignments. While collaboration is encouraged, you must write up and submit your own answers. I take a dim view of large groups of students handing in identical assignments. Each assignment is due at the beginning of the lecture on the due date. **No late assignments will be accepted.**

### Exams

The midterm exam will **ONLY** cover the materials on consumer behavior (i.e. Part I of this course) but the final exam will **FULLY** cover all the materials taught in class (i.e. Part I, II and III).

Assignments and exams will be marked on a numerical (percentage) basis. At the conclusion of the course, a final mark will be calculated using the weights above. This final mark will be converted to a letter grade. These letter grade equivalences will generally apply:

A+	96-100	B	76-79	C-	60-63
A	90-95	B-	72-75	D+	55-59
A-	84-89	C+	68-71	D	50-54
B+	80-83	C	64-67	F	0-49

A passing grade on any particular component of the course is **NOT** required for a student to pass the course as a whole.

Non-programmable calculators **WILL** be allowed during the writing of the midterm and final examinations.

There will be a Registrar scheduled final examination, lasting **2** hours.

Exams **WILL NOT** involve multiple choice questions.

Students' Union Vice-President, Academic

Ola Mohajer

Phone: 220-3911

E-mail: [suypaca@ucalgary.ca](mailto:suypaca@ucalgary.ca)

Students' Union Faculty Representative (Arts)

Phone: 220-3913 Office MSC 251

E-mail [arts1@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca)

Society of Undergraduates in Economics (S.U.E.)

E-mail: [sue@ucalgary.ca](mailto:sue@ucalgary.ca)

[www.ucalgary.ca/sue/](http://www.ucalgary.ca/sue/)

**Notes:**

- Students seeking a grade reappraisal should discuss their work with the Instructor within *seven days* of the work being returned to the class.
- Students who are unable to write the midterm because of a **documented** illness, family emergency or religious observance will have the midterm weight shifted to the final. A make-up midterm will not be given.
- It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 403-220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than *seven days* after the start of this course.

Safewalk / Campus Security: 403-220-5333  
Emergency Assembly Location – Scurfield Hall - Atrium

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